

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus adapted for processing ~~content~~ a plurality of contents provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing ~~[[a]] the~~ plurality of available contents, the information processing apparatus comprising:

~~first~~ main license acquisition means for acquiring a ~~first~~ main license having a ~~first utilization~~ main condition applied in common for the plurality of available contents, the ~~first~~ main license further including ~~first~~ main license key information and a ~~first~~ main license electronic signature;

~~second~~ sublicense acquisition means for acquiring, along with ~~a content from~~ among the plurality of available contents, a plurality of sublicenses ~~second~~ license that ~~[[is]] correspond to the plurality of contents and are provided in a manner different from the first main license, the plurality of sublicenses including and has a second utilization condition~~ subconditions for the plurality of available contents ~~acquired content, and the second license further including identification information of a first the main license corresponding to the second license, second~~ sublicense key information, and a ~~second sublicense electronic signatures~~ signature; and

control means for controlling reproduction of the ~~acquired-content~~ plurality of contents when the ~~first-utilization main~~ condition of the ~~first main~~ license and the ~~second utilization-condition~~ subconditions of the plurality of sublicenses ~~second license~~ are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of ~~available~~ contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the ~~second sublicense~~ acquisition means acquires, ~~during the reproduction of~~ along with a first content and before acquiring a second content, a first sublicense corresponding to the first content and a second sublicense corresponding to the second license which prescribes the second utilization-condition of a second content distributed subsequent to the first content, and the control means controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to the first content when the ~~first-utilization main~~ condition prescribed by the ~~first main~~ license and the ~~second-utilization-condition~~ subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense ~~license~~ are both satisfied.

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the ~~first main license~~ acquisition means acquires the ~~first main~~ license encrypted by a public-key corresponding to a secret-key to be prepared.

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the ~~second~~ sublicense key information included in the ~~second license~~ plurality of sublicenses is encrypted, and the control means decrypts, by using the ~~first~~ main license key information, encrypted ~~second~~ sublicense key information and uses the ~~second~~ sublicense key information to decrypt the plurality of contents ~~acquired~~ content.

5. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

license management means for allowing any other information processing apparatus to permit utilization of the plurality of contents ~~acquired content~~ when the ~~first~~ utilization main condition prescribed by the ~~first~~ main license and the ~~second~~ utilization condition subconditions prescribed by the ~~second license~~ plurality of sublicenses are both satisfied.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of processing ~~content~~ a plurality of contents provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of ~~available~~ contents, the computer-implemented method comprising:

a ~~first~~ main license acquisition step of acquiring a ~~first~~ main license having a ~~first~~ utilization main condition applied in common for the plurality of ~~available~~ contents, the

first main license further including first main license key information and a first main license electronic signature;

a second sublicense acquisition step of acquiring, along with a content from among the plurality of available contents, a plurality of sublicenses second license that ~~[[is]]~~ correspond to the plurality of contents and are provided in a manner different from the first main license, the plurality of sublicenses including and has a second utilization condition subconditions for the plurality of contents acquired content, and the second license further including identification information of a first the main license corresponding to the second license, second sublicense key information, and a second sublicense electronic signatures signature; and

a control step of controlling, using a processor, reproduction of the plurality of contents ~~acquired content~~ to a user when the first utilization main condition of the first main license and the second utilization condition subconditions of the plurality of sublicenses ~~second license~~ are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of available contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the second sublicense acquisition step acquires, ~~during the reproduction of~~ along with a first content and before acquiring a second content, a first sublicense corresponding to the first content and a second sublicense corresponding to the second license ~~which prescribes the second utilization condition of~~ a second content distributed subsequent to the first content, and the control step controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to the first content when the first utilization main condition prescribed by the

first main license and the ~~second utilization condition~~ subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense license are both satisfied.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions that are executable by a computer to perform a method for processing content a plurality of contents provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of available contents, the method comprising:

a first main license acquisition step of acquiring a first main license having a first utilization main condition applied in common for the plurality of available contents, the first main license further including first main license key information and a first main license electronic signature;

a second sublicense acquisition step of acquiring, along with ~~a content from~~ among the plurality of available contents, a plurality of sublicenses ~~second license~~ that ~~[[is]]~~ correspond to the plurality of contents and are provided in a manner different from the first main license, the plurality of sublicenses including and ~~has a second utilization condition~~ subconditions for the plurality of contents ~~acquired content~~, and the second license further including identification information of a first the main license corresponding to the second license, second sublicense key information, and a second sublicense electronic signatures signature; and

a control step of controlling reproduction of the ~~acquired content~~ plurality of contents when the first utilization main condition of the first main license and the ~~second utilization condition~~ subconditions of the plurality of sublicenses ~~second license~~ are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of ~~available~~ contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the ~~second~~ sublicense acquisition step acquires, ~~during the reproduction of~~ along with a first content and before acquiring a second content, a first sublicense corresponding to the first content and a second sublicense corresponding to the ~~second license which prescribes the second utilization condition of~~ a second content distributed subsequent to the first content, and the control step controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to the first content when the ~~first utilization~~ main condition prescribed by the ~~first~~ main license and the ~~second utilization condition~~ subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense license are both satisfied.

9. (Canceled).